

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Foreign Service of the United States of America

BIOGRAPHIC DATA FORM

NAME
KURT, Simmler

NATIONALITY
German

PRESENT POSITION
Journalist

DATA AND REMARKS

Wirsing, a journalist now residing in Munich, was born April 14, 1896 in Schweinfurt, the son of a factory owner. 1915-16 Volkschule in Schweinfurt. 1916-29 Humanistisches Gymnasium in Schweinfurt. 1925-27 studied sociology and political science at universities of Munich, Konstanz, Berlin, and Heidelberg. 1930 Dr. scienc. pol., Heidelberg. 1926-33 an assistant at the Institute for Social and Political Sciences at Heidelberg. 1932-33 visited nearly all western European countries. 1932 first book, Europäische und soziale Zukunft ("Europäische" referring to all countries lying between Germany and Russia). 1932 transferred to Berlin as free-lance writer; contributed to Die Zeit. 1932 became a non-permanent member of Secretariat of the League of Nations in Geneva. 1933 second book, Deutschland in der Weltkrieg; traveled to Italy and Yugoslavia. Oct. 1933 political editor of Münchner Neueste Nachrichten. 1934 third book, Kampf der Diplomatie. 1934 editor-in-chief of Münchner Neueste Nachrichten and Die Zeit. 1935 in Geneva and France for HN. 1936 in Egypt for HN, Moskau, and Syria for HN and Illustrirte Presse. 1937 fourth book, Europäischer Judentum. Arbeiter in Palästina. April-August 1938 in U.S. for HN and Illustrirte Presse; interview with President Roosevelt. January-February 1939 in Egypt. Summer 1939 visited the Pope in Rome. August 1939 published pamphlet and series of articles on "Krieg, der verhindert werden", which he claims to have published to help avert the war. 1939-44 editor of Das 20. Jahrhundert, new name for Die Zeit. 1939-February 1942 editor-in-chief of HN. Autumn 1939-Summer 1941 honorary post in German Foreign Office. Autumn 1940 refused post offered him by Ribbentrop to head the Information Section of the Foreign Office with the rank of Minister. Autumn and December 1940 lecturer in Stockholm; visited Minister Rath in Paris. May 1941 visit to Lisbon. January 1942 fifth book, Der Magische Kontinent, chiefly about U.S. February 1942 volunteered for army service, trained as war correspondent; private, sergeant, lieutenant. April 1942 war correspondent in Russia. December 1942 ill; returned to Germany. 1943 business for publication Signal in Rome and Berlin. 1944 published Das Füllalter des Dämons. Trips to Italy, Spain, Denmark, Paris for Signal; guest of Ambassador Beckhoff in Madrid. October 1944-March 1945 wrote "front" reports for Hitler, Himmler, and Goebbels-Invardt. December 1944 visit to Copenhagen and to German NSKK agent in Stockholm. January 1945 active in Schönenberg-Invardt negotiations for sending remaining Jews in Germany to Switzerland and Portugal. Jan.-April 1945 lived in Berlin, nominally still in army; did journalistic work for Signal; frequent meetings with Major Salm of the Abwehr. Joined NSAP July 1, 1940 (no. 6 203 91); 25 September 11, 1938, advancing to rank of Sturmbannführer (major) on Nov. 9, 1940; served for a time with SD (Security Service) Leitabschnitt Munich. June 1945 arrested by CIC in Bad Tölz. Nov. 1945 three-week trip through U.S. Zone with Minister Röntgen, both escorted by two American officers; purpose of trip to study effect of American ID on Germans. Denazification court at Fürth-Kirchen declared him a full-blooded Nazi, fined 2,000 Marks. He claimed to have protected racial and religious persecutees from

Submit to Department in Triplicate	CLASSIFICATION (REF. NO. 152)	Continue Data and Remarks on Plain Sheets
------------------------------------	----------------------------------	---

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953-254748

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2003 2006

FOR COORDINATION WITH *ed* *State*

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

UNCLASSIFIED

-2-

WIRSING, Giselher (cont'd)

the SS and to have published articles in Das XX. Jahrhundert that were termed "anti-dictatorial" by the Kreis der Kulturschaffenden, and the magazine was banned in 1944. In February 1950 a Munich appeal court reconsidered his declassification status and confirmed his classification as a fellow-traveler (Mitläufer) but treated him as a lesser offender and thereby reduced his fine from DM 2000 to DM 500. The appeal court found that he was no convinced National Socialist but that he had written many pro-Nazi articles. An extenuating circumstance was found in the attempts that he had made to improve relations with the church. Wirsing became a member of the editorial staff of the Stuttgart publication, Christ und Welt. In 1951 he published another book, Schritt aus dem Nichts. Perspektiven am Ende der Revolutionen (Verlag Eugen Diederichs, Düsseldorf-Köln). He is married and has one child.

UNCLASSIFIED

BEST AVAILABLE COPY